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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, It is the privilege of this Body to recognize milestone events in the history of businesses in our great State; and

WHEREAS, The Cingular Wireless call center in Rantoul is celebrating its tenth anniversary and is a model for public-private partnership in economic development and job creation; and

WHEREAS, The center is located on what was once the Chanute Air Force Base that was surplused by the government in 1993; the Village of Rantoul has since turned the abandoned 2200-acre complex into an aviation and business/industrial park; the Village has worked diligently to improve the abandoned infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The Cingular Wireless Rantoul facility became operational as a wireless call center on April 15, 1996, with approximately 30 employees; the center now occupies the entire 92,000 square foot, 2-story building that was acquired by the Village of Rantoul in 1993 when the base was closed; from 1993 until 2002 the building was utilized as a commercial, multi-tenant building of which the Cingular Wireless Rantoul call center was the anchor business; and

WHEREAS, Originally the Cingular Wireless Rantoul call center occupied only the second floor of the multi-tenant building; the second floor consisted of 50,000 square feet and had seating for approximately 225 associates and support staff; in 1998 an additional 25,000 square feet was leased for additional seating of 117 employees; in April, 2002, Cingular Wireless acquired the entire 92,000 square foot building, which contains seating for 550 associates and 70 managers and support staff; and

1           WHEREAS, The Cingular Wireless Rantoul facility is a  
2 state-of-the-art call center employing approximately 550  
3 Illini; the Rantoul center decor has been copied in many  
4 company call centers from the bright, colorful wall paints to  
5 the open seating and upbeat atmosphere; and

6           WHEREAS, The Rantoul call center has always enjoyed a  
7 reputation as one of the premier employers in the Central  
8 Illinois area; being in close proximity to Champaign/Urbana and  
9 the University of Illinois, Cingular Wireless is provided with  
10 a more than ample potential workforce; currently, Cingular  
11 Wireless Rantoul call center associates represent  
12 approximately 34 zip codes from about a 50-mile radius;  
13 Cingular Wireless's experience with the Central Illinois  
14 workforce has been that these are hardworking individuals with  
15 a strong work ethic; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we congratulate the Cingular Wireless Rantoul call center on  
19 the occasion of its tenth anniversary; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the Cingular Wireless Rantoul call center as an  
22 expression of our esteem.